

Message Text

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UNCLAS LUANDA 930

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJ: "PHASE TWO, STEP ONE" THE ADMIRAL VISITS SAVIMBI

REF: LUANDA 926 (NOTAL)

DAR ES SALAAM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 JUNTA PRESIDENT VICE ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO ACCOMPANIED BY JUNTA MEMBERS CARDOSO AND ALTINO MAGALHAES, MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO ALMEIDA, THE MOXICO DISTRICT GOVERNOR, THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION AND AN AFM REPRESENTATIVE MET WITH UNITA PRESIDENT JONAS SAVIMBI NEAR LUSO. ALTHOUGH NO COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED AND THE ADMIRAL DID NOT TALK TO THE ASSEMBLED PRESS AFTER THE MEETING, THE VISIT IS BEING REPORTED HERE AS SUCCESSFUL. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FIRST FACE-TO-FACE MEETING BETWEEN ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO AND A LIBERATION GROUP LEADER TOOK PLACE AT CANGUMBE, A SMALL TOWN 40 MILES WEST OF LUSO ON THE BENGUELA RAILROAD. THE EIGHT UNCLASSIFIED

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MAN PORTUGUESE DELEGATION MET PRIVATELY WITH 16 UNITA MEMBERS,

INCLUDING THREE WOMEN. NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE WAS COVERED IN THE ADMIRAL'S WELCOMING REMARKS NOR IN SAVIMBI'S RESPONSE. ROSA COUTINHO LEFT FOR LUANDA VIA LUSO SHORTLY AFTER THE MEETING ADJOURNED.

3. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FROM CANGUMBE SAVIMBI DECLINED TO ELABORATE ON THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PORTUGUESE BEYOND SAYING THAT "PROBLEMS OF THE (FUTURE) TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT" AND UNIFICATION OF THE THREE LIBERATION GROUPS WERE DISCUSSED. SAVIMBI STATED THAT UNITA-MPLA CONTACTS HAVE BEGUN IN LUSAKA AND EVEN THOUGH THE ATMOSPHERE HAD NOT QUITE SETTLED, HE WAS OPTIMISTIC. THE REPORTERS BAITED SAVIMBI ABOUT RECENT STATEMENTS BY MPLA PRESIDENT AGOSTINHO NETO CRITICAL OF UNITA, BUT HE REFUSED TO BE DRAWN INTO A DISCUSSION. SAVIMBI ALSO REFRAINED FROM ANY COMMENT ON FNLA, OTHER THAN TO SAY FNLA FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES HAS ACCEPTED UNITA. EVEN WHEN REPORTERS MENTIONED THE PRO-MPLA SLANT OF THE GOVERNMENT RADIO STATION IN LUANDA, SAVIMBI REACTED CALMLY, SAYING THAT THE STATION COULD SUPPORT MPLA BUT THAT IT SHOULD HELP EQUALLY HIS GROUP AND FNLA AND ATTACK NOBODY.

4. IN RESPONSE TO A JOURNALIST'S OBSERVATION THAT THE ADMIRAL SAID "SEE YOU SOON IN LUANDA," SAVIMBI SAID "NOT SOON, BUT EVENTUALLY," AND THAT HIS HEADQUARTERS WOULD MOVE TO LUSO BY CHRISTMAS.

5. A FEW DAYS PRIOR TO THE SAVIMBI-COUTINHO MEETING SAVIMBI MADE A MAJOR SPEECH TO THE UNITA PARTY CONGRESS WHICH HAS JUST BEEN PUBLISHED. IT WILL BE COVERED BY SEPTTEL.
KILLORAN

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